AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) An authentication system for transmitting information, said authentication system storing identification information of a plurality of providing users and a plurality of receiving users and being adapted to

receive information from at least one of said providing users;

authenticate said at least one providing user;

transmit a message including said information via a mobile communications network to a receiving user's mobile terminal;

extract a public key specific to said receiving user from said stored identification information; and

use said further public key for encryption of said at least part of said message.

8-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) An authentication system for transmitting information, said authentication system storing identification information of a plurality of providing users and a plurality of receiving users and being adapted to

receive information from at least one of said providing users;

authenticate said at least one providing user;

transmit a message including said information via a mobile communications network to a receiving user's mobile terminal;

receive an acknowledgement message or a response message from said receiving user; and

transmit a confirmation message to said one providing user based upon said acknowledgement or response message;

wherein said confirmation message requires an acknowledgement message from said one providing user and said authentication system further being adapted to send a confirmation message to said receiver user's terminal, notifying the terminal to decrypt and display the decrypted part of said message.

11-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) A method of transmitting a message via a mobile telecommunications network from a sender's device to a user's terminal,

wherein the user is required to acknowledge receipt of said message in a predetermined way and an acknowledgement message is subsequently transmitted to the sender of said message;

wherein at least a portion of the text message is encrypted by the sender's device before ~~tnrasmission~~ transmission and decrypted by the receiving terminal before display;

wherein the text message comprises a first portion including the body of said message and a second portion containing encryption data used for encryption of said body and required for decryption of data included in said body; and

wherein authentication data provided by the receiving user and/or response data to said message are encrypted using said encryption data.

21-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Amended) A method of transmitting a message via a mobile telecommunications network from a sender's device to a user's terminal,

wherein the user is required to acknowledge receipt of said message in a predetermined way and an acknowledgement message is subsequently transmitted to the sender of said message;

wherein in said sender's device and in said receiving user's terminal a transaction reference counter is implemented and wherein each of said transaction reference counters is incremented if a message is successfully received; and

wherein a transaction reference is included in every message transmitter from the receiving user to the sender.

29. (Original) A method according to claim 28, wherein said sender compares the received transaction reference with its transaction reference counter and the sender only responds if the received transaction reference matches the sender's transaction reference counter.

30-32. (Cancelled)

33. (Currently Amended) An authentication system for transmitting information, said authentication system storing identification information of a plurality of providing users and a plurality of receiving users and being adapted to

receive information from at least one of said providing users;

authenticate said at least one providing user; and

transmit a message including said information via a mobile communications network to a receiving user's mobile terminal;

further being adapted to

extract a public key specific to said receiving user from said stored identification information and to use said further public key for encryption of said at least part of said message;

provide a communication specific public/private key pair valid only for a single communication between the authentication system and said receiving user,

provide a communication specific public/private key pair valid only for a single communication between the authentication system and said receiving user, wherein said communication comprises a message and~~/or~~ a response to said message;

encrypt at least part of said message using said communication specific public/private key pair; and to

send said communication specific public key to said receiving user as part of said message.

34. (Previously Presented) An authentication system according to claim 33 further being adapted to authenticate a receiving user as the recipient of said information.

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Currently Amended) An authentication system according to claim 33 ~~further being adapted to receive~~wherein a response to said message comprises an acknowledgement message or a response message from said receiving user.

37. (Previously Presented) An authentication system according to claim 36 further being adapted to transmit a confirmation message to said one providing user based upon said acknowledgement or response message.

38. (Previously Presented) An authentication system according to claim 37 wherein said confirmation message requires an acknowledgement message from said one

confirmation message to said receiver user's terminal, notifying the terminal to decrypt and display the decrypted part of said message.

39. (Previously Presented) An authentication system according to claim 34 wherein said user is required to authenticate himself by providing authentication data.

40. (Previously Presented) An authentication system according to claim 34 wherein said user's terminal automatically generates said acknowledgement message upon supply of said authentication data and/or response data.

41. (Previously Presented) An authentication system according to claim 34 wherein a central authentication system verifies the user's authentication.

42. (Previously Presented) An authentication system according to claim 34 wherein said message or a portion thereof is only displayed to the receiving user if the receiving user provides a valid authentication.

43. (Previously Presented) An authentication system according to claim 33 wherein said message is a SMS message according to the GSM standard.

44. (Currently Amended) An authentication system according to claim 33 wherein in said authentication system~~sender's device~~ and in said receiving user's terminal a transaction reference counter is implemented and wherein each of said transaction reference counters is incremented if a message is successfully received.

45. (Currently Amended) An authentication system according to claim 44 wherein a transaction reference is included in every message transmitter from the receiving user to the authentication system~~sender~~.

46. (Currently Amended) An authentication system according to claim 45 wherein said sender compares the received transaction reference with its transaction reference counter and the authentication system~~sender~~ only responds if the received transaction reference matches the ~~sender's~~ authentication system's transaction reference counter.

47. (Previously Presented) An electronic commerce system incorporating an authentication system according to claim 33.

48. (Previously Presented) An electronic voting system incorporating an authentication system according to claim 33.

49. (Currently Amended) An authentication system for transmitting information, said authentication system storing identification information of a plurality of providing users and a plurality of receiving users and being adapted to

receive information from at least one of said providing users;

authenticate said at least one providing user; and

transmit a message including said information via a mobile communications network to a receiving user's mobile terminal;

further being adapted to

extract a public key specific to said receiving user from said stored identification information and to use said further public key for encryption of said at least part of said message;

provide a communication specific public/private key pair valid only for a single communication between the authentication system and said receiving user; wherein said communication comprises a message and/or a response to said message;

send said communication specific public key to said receiving user terminal prior to said communication and store said public key in said mobile terminal; and to

encrypt at least part of said message using said communication specific public/private key pair.

50. (Previously Presented) An authentication system according to claim 49 further being adapted to authenticate a receiving user as the recipient of said information.

51. (Cancelled)

52. (Currently Amended) An authentication system according to claim ~~33~~ 49 ~~further being adapted to receive~~wherein a response to said message comprises an acknowledgement message or a response message from said receiving user.

53. (Previously Amended) An authentication system according to claim 52 further being adapted to transmit a confirmation message to said one providing user based upon said acknowledgement or response message.

54. (Previously Amended) An authentication system according to claim 53 wherein said confirmation message requires an acknowledgement message from said one providing user and said authentication system further being adapted to send a confirmation message to said receiver user's terminal, notifying the terminal to decrypt and display the decrypted part of said message.

55. (Previously Amended) An authentication system according to claim 50 wherein said user is required to authenticate himself by providing authentication data.

56. (Previously Amended) An authentication system according to claim 50 wherein said user's terminal automatically generates said acknowledgement message upon supply of said authentication data and/or response data.

57. (Previously Amended) An authentication system according to claim 50 wherein a central authentication system verifies the user's authentication.

58. (Previously Amended) An authentication system according to claim 50 wherein said message or a portion thereof is only displayed to the receiving user if the receiving user provides a valid authentication.

59. (Currently Amended) An authentication system according to claim ~~33~~ 49 wherein said message is a SMS message according to the GSM standard.

60. (Currently Amended) An authentication system according to claim 49 wherein in said ~~sender's device~~authentication system and in said receiving user's terminal a transaction reference counter is implemented and wherein each of said transaction reference counters is incremented if a message is successfully received.

61. (Currently Amended) An authentication system according to claim 60 wherein a transaction reference is included in every message transmitter from the receiving user to the authentication system~~sender~~.

62. (Currently Amended) An authentication system according to claim 61 wherein said sender compares the received transaction reference with its transaction reference counter and the ~~sender~~ authentication system only responds if the received transaction reference matches the ~~sender's~~ authentication system transaction reference counter.

63. (Previously Presented) An electronic commerce system incorporating an authentication system according to claim 49.

64. (Previously Presented) An electronic voting system incorporating an authentication system according to claim 49.

65. (Currently Amended) A method of transmitting a message via a mobile telecommunications network from a sender's device to a user's terminal, wherein

the user is required to acknowledge receipt of said message in a predetermined way;

an acknowledgement message is subsequently transmitted to the sender of said message;

said user is required to authenticate himself by providing authentication data; and a central authentication system verifies the user's authentication; and wherein

at least a portion of the text message is encrypted by the sender's device before transmission and decrypted by the receiving terminal before display, the text message comprising a first portion including the body of said message and a second portion containing encryption data used for encryption of said body and required for decryption of data included in said body; and

wherein said authentication data provided by the receiving user and/or response data to said message are encrypted using said encryption data.

66. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 65 wherein said user's terminal automatically generates said acknowledgement message upon supply of said authentication data and/or response data.

67. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 65 wherein said message or a portion thereof is only displayed to the receiving user if the receiving user provides a valid authentication.

68. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 65 wherein said second portion is unencrypted.

69. (Cancelled)

70. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 65 wherein said first portion of said text message is encrypted using a private/public key pair, wherein said public key is valid only for a predetermined number of text messages and wherein said public key is transmitted in said second portion of said text message.

71. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 65, wherein said encryption data are valid only for a single communication between the sender and the receiving user, said communication comprising said message and a response to said message.

72. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 65 wherein said encryption requires further encryption data stored in the sender's device.

73. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 65 wherein said decryption requires further encryption data stored in the receiving terminal.

74. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 72 wherein said further encryption data is a public key transmitted in a text message, which is transmitted prior to said text message.

75. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 65 wherein at least a portion of said message and/or response message to said message is automatically deleted after a predetermined time period from said mobile terminal.

76. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 65 wherein authentication data are used for encryption and decryption of said portion of said message.

77. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 65 wherein conventional short message protocols and software applications running on the communications devices are used to implement the method.

78. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 65 wherein said message is a SMS message according to the GSM standard.

79. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 65 wherein in said sender's device and in said receiving user's terminal a transaction reference counter is

implemented and wherein each of said transaction reference counters is incremented if a message is successfully received.

80. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 79 wherein a transaction reference is included in every message transmitter from the receiving user to the sender.

81. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 80 wherein said sender compares the received transaction reference with its transaction reference counter and the sender only responds if the received transaction reference matches the sender's transaction reference counter.

82. (Previously Presented) An electronic commerce system incorporating a method of transmitting a message via a mobile telecommunications network according to claim 65.

83. (Previously Presented) An electronic voting system incorporating a method of transmitting a message via a mobile telecommunications network according to claim 65.

84. (New) An authentication system according to claim 36, further being adapted to decrypt at least part of said response message using said communication specific public/private key pair.

85. (New) An authentication system according to claim 33, wherein said information received from said providing users is encrypted and said authentication

system is operable to decrypt said information before forwarding said information on to said user terminal.

86. (New) An authentication system according to claim 85, wherein said information is encrypted using a public/private key pair valid only for a single transaction between said providing user and said authentication system.

87. (New) An authentication system according to claim 86, wherein said public key is transmitted to said providing user's terminal before said information is received by said authentication system.

88. (New) An authentication system according to claim 87, wherein said public key is transmitted to said providing user in response to a request received by said authentication system.

89. (New) An authentication system according to claim 87, wherein said public key is transmitted to said user in a prior communication.

90. (New) An authentication system according to claim 52, further being adapted to decrypt at least part of said response message using said communication specific public/private key pair.

91. (New) An authentication system according to claim 49, wherein said information received from said providing users is encrypted and said authentication system is operable to decrypt said information before forwarding said information on to said user terminal.

92. (New) An authentication system according to claim 91, wherein said information is encrypted using a public/private key pair valid only for a single transaction between said providing user and said authentication system.

93. (New) An authentication system according to claim 92, wherein said public key is transmitted to said providing user's terminal before said information is received by said authentication system.

94. (New) An authentication system according to claim 93, wherein said public key is transmitted to said providing user in response to a request received by said authentication system.

95. (New)An authentication system according to claim 93, wherein said public key is transmitted to said providing user in a priori communication.